

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 04792 291656Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6278
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LAGOS PASS AMB. YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT NAIROBI
AIRPORT

FOLLOWING TEXT AIRPORT INTERVIEW AMB. YOUNG NAIROBI MARCH 28.

AMB. YOUNG: I WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS IN THE
NEXT TEN MINUTES OR SO. QUESTION: HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT TO MAKE ON
THE ASSASSINATION IN NAMIBIA? AMB. YOUNG: YES, I DO. IT WAS JUST
THIS KIND OF CONFLICT THAT THE US HAS SOUGHT TO AVOID, AND I THINK WE
HAVE TO ASK A QUESTION THAT VICTOR HUGO ASKED A LONGTIME AGO WHEN HE
SAID THAT WHEN MEN ARE PLACED IN DARKNESS CRIMES WILL BE COMMITTED AND

ONE NEEDS TO ASK NOT ONLY WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES BUT WHO CREATED THE
DARKNESS.

I THINK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IS END THE DARKNESS OF
TRIBALISM AND DIVISION IN NAMIBIA BECAUSE INEVITABLY AS APARTHEID
HAS BEEN EXPORTED, AS ETHNICITY AND TRIBALISM HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED IN
NAMIBIA, ONE WOULD HAVE TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE CAUSE OF THE KIND
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 04792 291656Z

OF STRIFE AND BLOODSHED THAT WOULD RESULT UNLESS THERE IS A UNITED NA
TIONS
PEACE KEEPING OPERATION AND AN ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF ALL OF THE PARTIES

CONCERNED TO FIND A DEMOCRATIC MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT MAJORITY
RULE IN NAMIBIA. QUESTION: ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW THIS ASSASSINATION
MIGHT EFFECT THE PLANS ANDHOPES FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION? AMB. YOUNG:

I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE SAID BY ALL NAMIBIANS THAT CHIEF KAPUUNO SHOULD NOT DIE IN VAIN, THAT IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE DISAGREED WITH HIM ON THE METHOD OF ACHIEVING NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, HE WAS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING A PERSON WHO FOUGHT WITH ALL THE MEANS AT HIS DISPOSAL FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA. NOW, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE SHOULD GO ON AND ACHIEVE WHAT WAS HIS GOAL. SOMETIMES, I THINK THERE CAN BE OUT OF THESE KINDS OF TRAGEDIES A NEW SENSE OF DIRECTION, A NEW SENSE OF DETERMINATION, IF PEOPLE HAVE THE GOOD SENSE TO REALIZE THAT MORE AND MORE BLOODSHED AND MORE AND MORE DESTRUCTION ARE NOT GOING TO BRING PEACE OR INDEPENDENCE FOR ANYBODY.

QUESTION: WHY DID MR. SMITH REJECT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL ON RHODESIA? WHAT OTHER AVENUES ARE STILL OPEN? AMB. YOUNG: I DON'T KNOW THAT I AGREE THAT MR. SMITH HAS REJECTED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. MR. SMITH HAS MOVED AHEAD WITH HIS OWN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WERE NEVER DEPENDENT ON MR. SMITH. THEY WERE ALWAYS DEPENDENT ON REPLACING MR. SMITH, AND SO I THINK THAT ALL OF THE AVENUES THAT WERE EVER OPEN TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL ARE STILL OPEN. I DON'T KNOW THAT ANYBODY REALLY BELIEVES THAT IAN SMITH WAS GOING TO VOLUNTARILY STEP DOWN.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NAIROB 04792 291656Z

I DON'T THINK ANYBODY BELIEVES THAT HE WAS VOLUNTARILY STEPPED DOWN AND TURNED OVER POWERS TO THIS TRANSITION COMMITTEE, AND SO I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO PRESS ON WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ONLY THING

THAT COULD STOP THE FIGHTING: INVOLVE ALL PARTIES IN A FREE-ELECTION AND HAVE A PEACEFUL ZIMBABWE. QUESTION: IN THE LIGHT OF HIS (INADVISABLE), DO YOU FORESEE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS? AMB. YOUNG: WE HAVE HAD ECONOMIC SANCTIONS FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS AND I FORESEE US MOVING AHEAD. A PART OF OUR PROBLEM,

I THINK, ALL ALONG WAS THAT IT WAS NOT JUST IAN SMITH THAT WE HAD NOT REACHED ANY AGREEMENT WITH AND THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, BUT WE COULD MOVE AHEAD TO FULFILL THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. I THINK WE HAVE THAT AGREEMENT NOW, FROM MOST EVERYBODY BUT IAN SMITH AND AS SOON AS WE WORK OUT. SOME OF THOSE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, I THINK THAT WE WILL THEN BE MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHING SOME KIND OF ALL-PARTIES CO-

REFERENCE THAT COULD BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN

PLAN, ON A PLAN THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES AGREE TO.

QUESTION: FOR THE RECORD, WILL YOU

SUMMARIZE YOUR OPINION OF THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT OVER THE WEEK-END?

AMB. YOUNG: I THINK THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT WENT A LONG WAY

ESTABLISHING A DETERMINATION OF THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO

WORK AS HARD OR HARDER TOWARD A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AS THEY HAD IN

THE

PAST TOWARD ACHIEVING VICTORY MILITARILY, I THINK THAT THE FRONTLINE

PRESIDENTS COMMITTED THEMSELVES AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT JOINED THEM IN

AGREEING TO WORK FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BUT THEY WANT THAT POLIT

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PAGE 04 NAIROB 04792 291656Z

SETTLEMENT TO TAKE PLACE UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND NOT UNDER

THE TERMS OF IAN SMITH AND THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, BUT THEY EXPRESS

NO

OBJECTION TO ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT COMING TOGET-

HER

IN A CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE

UNITED STATES. I THINK ALSO EVEN THOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE DIDN'T SAY

ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I THINK, MAYBE, SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT

PROGRESS

IN THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE FIELD OF NAMIBIA

WHERE WE WILL HAVE, BEFORE TOO LONG, A RELEASE OF THE FULL PROPOSAL

OF THE

FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH

AFRICA AND TO THE ORGANIZATIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE NAMIBIA. I THINK

A FAVOURABLE RESPONSE TO THOSE PROPOSALS WILL BRING PROGRESS IN NAMIBIA

THAT WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT AND DETERMINE THE KIND OF PROGRESS WE

HAVE IN RHODESIA, BECOMING ZIMBABWE.

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